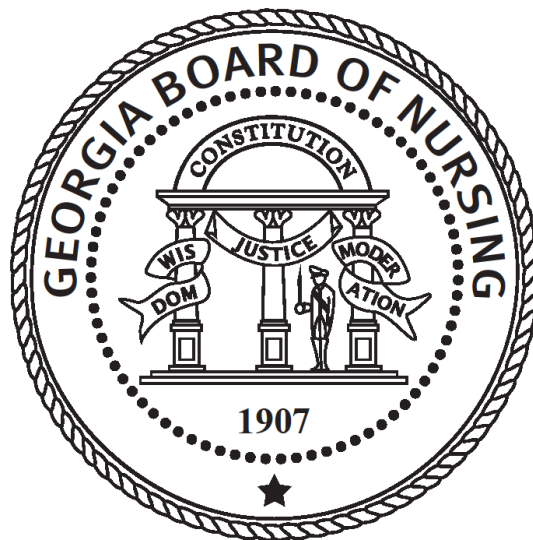

Georgia Board of Nursing



Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report

Introduction

The Georgia Board of Nursing ("Board") was created on August 22, 1907 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly.

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nurses, registered professional nurses, advanced practice registered nurses, licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs.

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing and registered professional education and practice.

The Board is comprised of thirteen members appointed by the Governor: two registered nursing educators, one practical nursing educator, two registered nurses employed in nursing service administration, one registered nurse employed in nursing home administration or nursing service administration, two advanced practice registered nurses, one additional registered nurse, three licensed practical nurses, and one consumer member.

The Board develops rules and regulations that set the standards for nursing practice and education, provide the minimum qualifications for licensure, and ensure that the disciplinary process is implemented in a fashion that guarantees due process and public protection.

The Board meets in odd numbered months for three consecutive days and in even numbered months by teleconference. Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at the Office of Secretary of State, Professional Licensing Boards Division located at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Board Members and Staff

Brenda B. Rowe, RN, MN, JD – President
Registered Nursing Education Member

Kellie R. Lockwood, RN, MSN - Vice President
Practical Nursing Education Member

Ashley Barnett
Consumer Member

Nancy Barton, RN, MSN
Nursing Service Administration Member

Tammy C. Burdeaux, RN, BSN, CRNI
Registered Nurse Member

Fredettena “Tina” Fletcher, LPN
Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Linda G. Floyd, RN, EdD, PMHNP-BC, CNL
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

Merry Fort, RN
Nursing Service Administration Member

Amy Hooper, LPN
Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Katherine Mann, RN, CRNA
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Member

K. Andrea Phipps, LPN
Licensed Practical Nurse Member

Rhonda A. Scott, PhD, RN, NE-BC, NEA-BC
Nursing Service Administration Member

Dellarie L. Shilling, RN, DNP, FNP-BC
Registered Nursing Education Member

Jim Cleghorn, MA
Executive Director

Overview

As of June 30, 2015, the Board had record of the following active licenses:

Licensed Practical Nurse - 35,740

Advanced Practice - CRNA - 1,836

Advanced Practice - CNM - 489

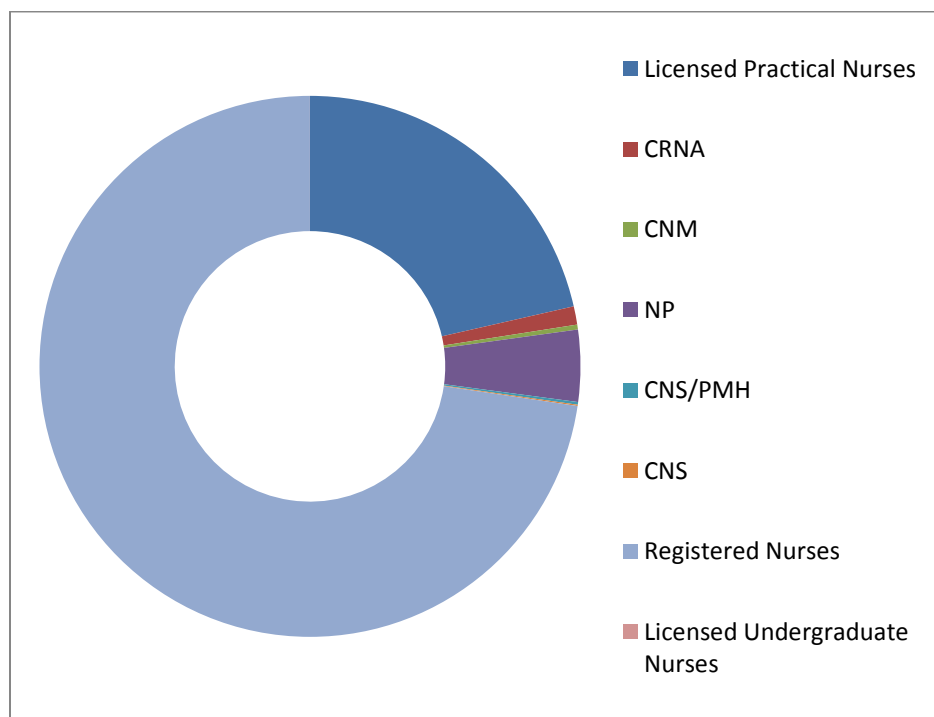
Advanced Practice - NP - 7,230

Advanced Practice - CNS/PMH - 270

Advanced Practice - CNS -123

Registered Professional Nurse - 122,317

Licensed Undergraduate Nurse – 5



Committees of the Board

Investigative Committee

Members of the Board comprise two investigative committees. The investigative committees review complaints, investigations and other information to determine if a violation of the Nurse Practice Act has occurred and to make recommendations to the Board regarding disciplinary actions.

APRN Committee

The APRN Committee is comprised of twelve (12) authorized APRNs: two certified nurse midwives, three clinical nurse specialists, three certified registered nurse anesthetists and four nurse practitioners. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of advanced practice registered nurses.

Nursing Education Committee

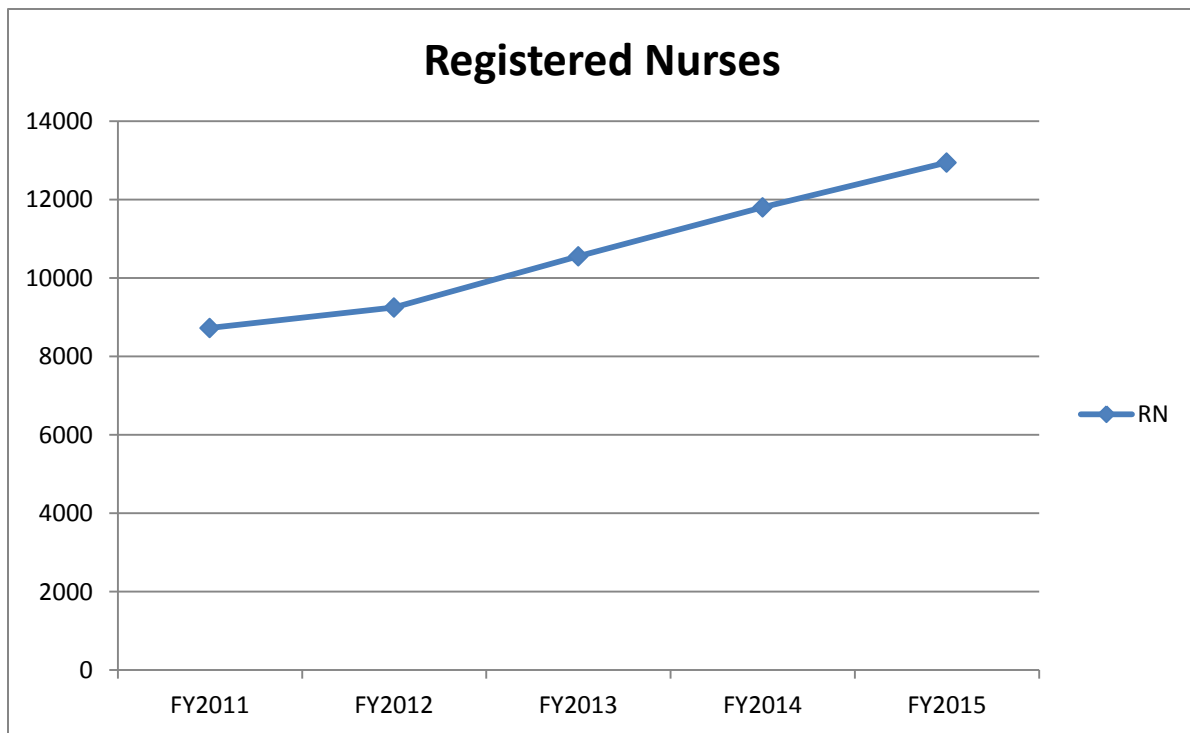
The Nursing Education Committee is comprised of twelve (12) registered nurses involved in registered and practical nursing education: three practical nursing education program members, two associate degree nursing education program members, three baccalaureate degree nursing education program members, one master's degree nursing education program member, one public nursing education program member, one private nursing education program member and one at-large member. The committee acts on charges developed by the Board and provides information and recommendations to the Board regarding the regulation of registered and practical nursing education programs.

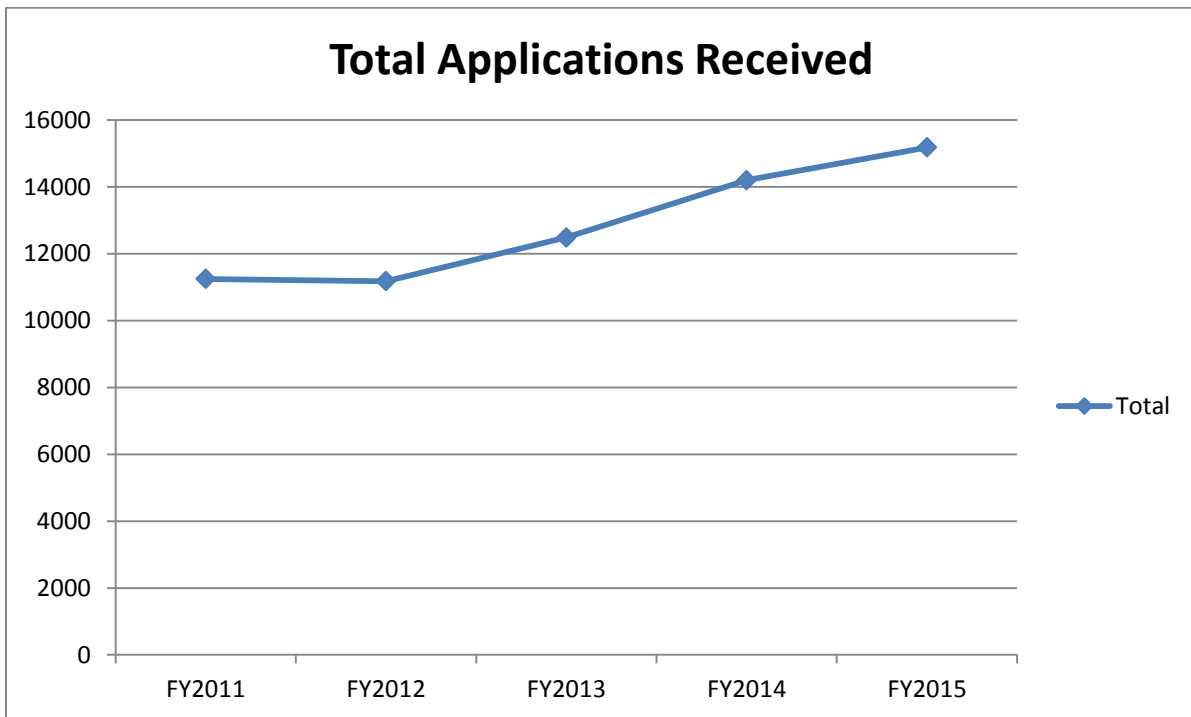
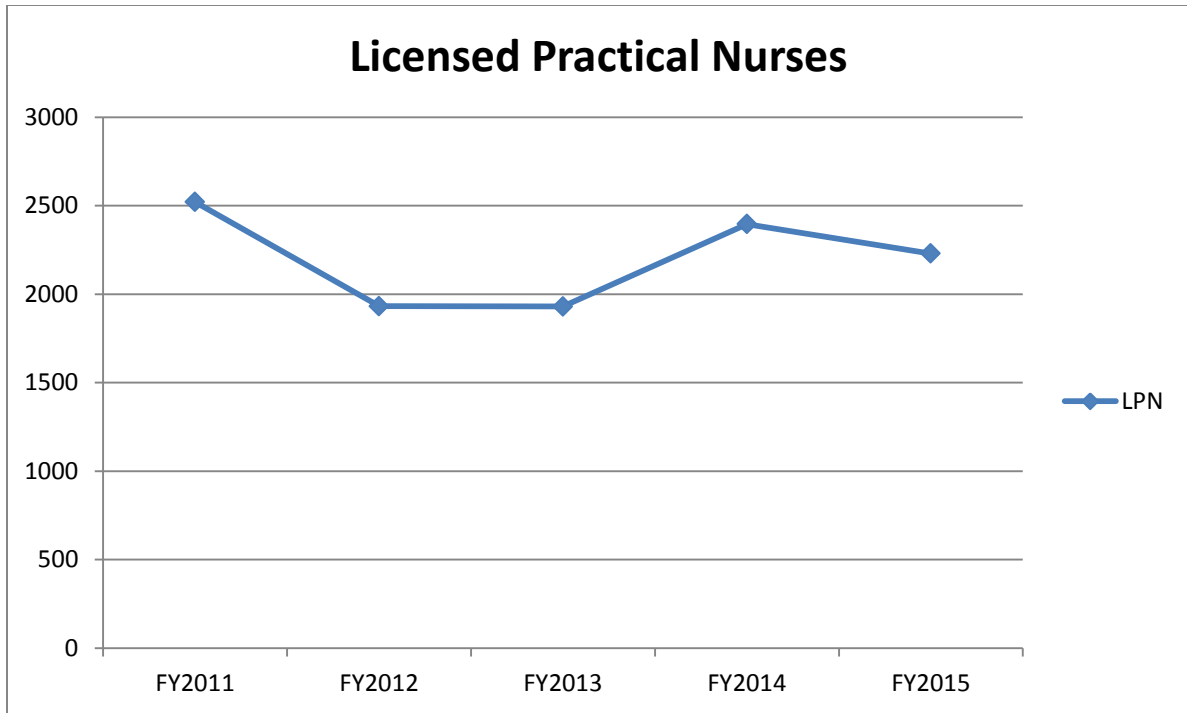
Licensing

The Board exists to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare through legislative regulation and control of practical nursing, registered nursing and advanced practice registered nursing practice. This is accomplished by ensuring that licensed individuals meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for licensure and have the necessary education, training and skill to practice with reasonable skill and safety.

In FY2015, the Board received 15,174 (12,944 RN and 2,230 LPN) applications for licensure. This number represents a 6.9% increase in applications from FY2014 (14,194). The number of applications received has increased 35% since FY2011 (11,244).

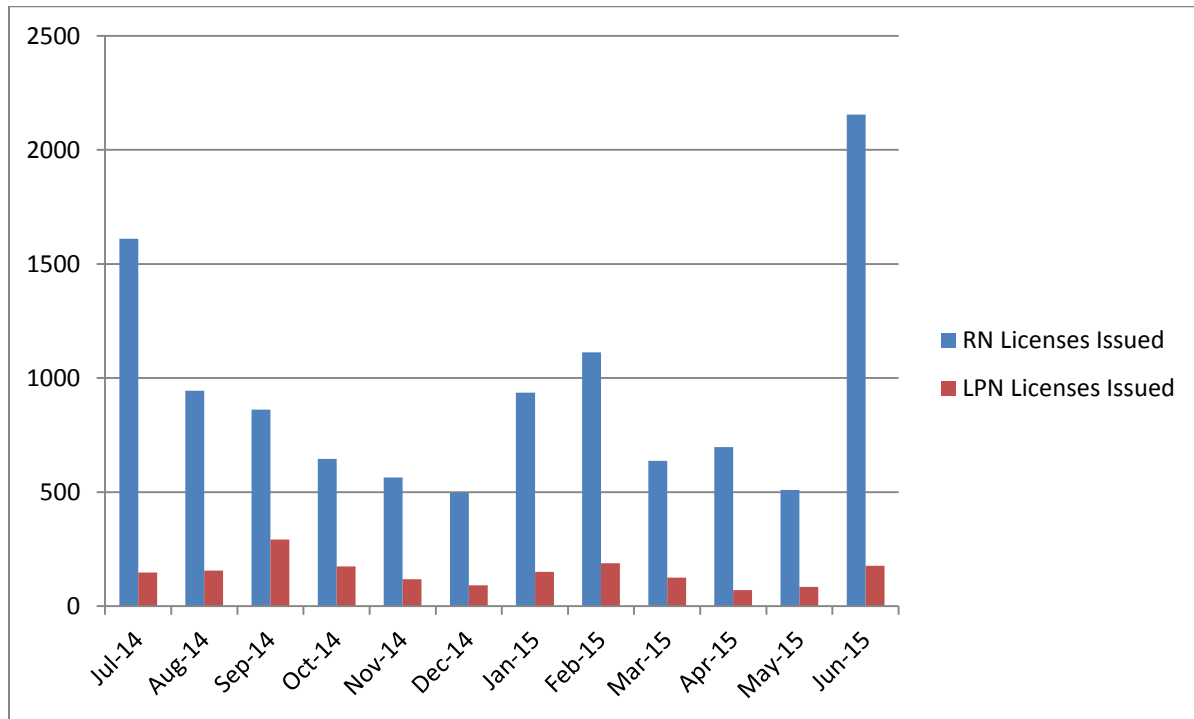
Applications Received From FY2011 Through FY2015





In FY2015, the Board issued 12,952 licenses (11,173 RN and 1,779 LPN). This represents a 19% increase in licenses issued since FY2014 (10,887). The number of licenses issued has increased 33.5% since FY2011 (9,701).

Licenses Issued

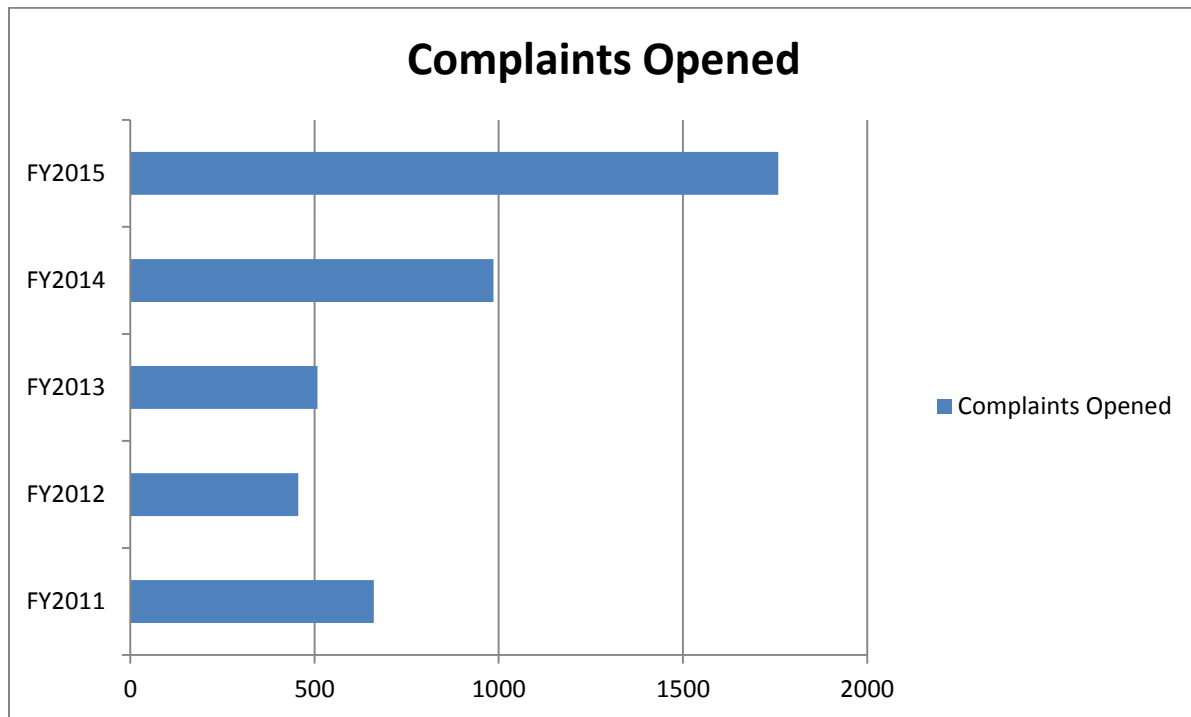


Enforcement

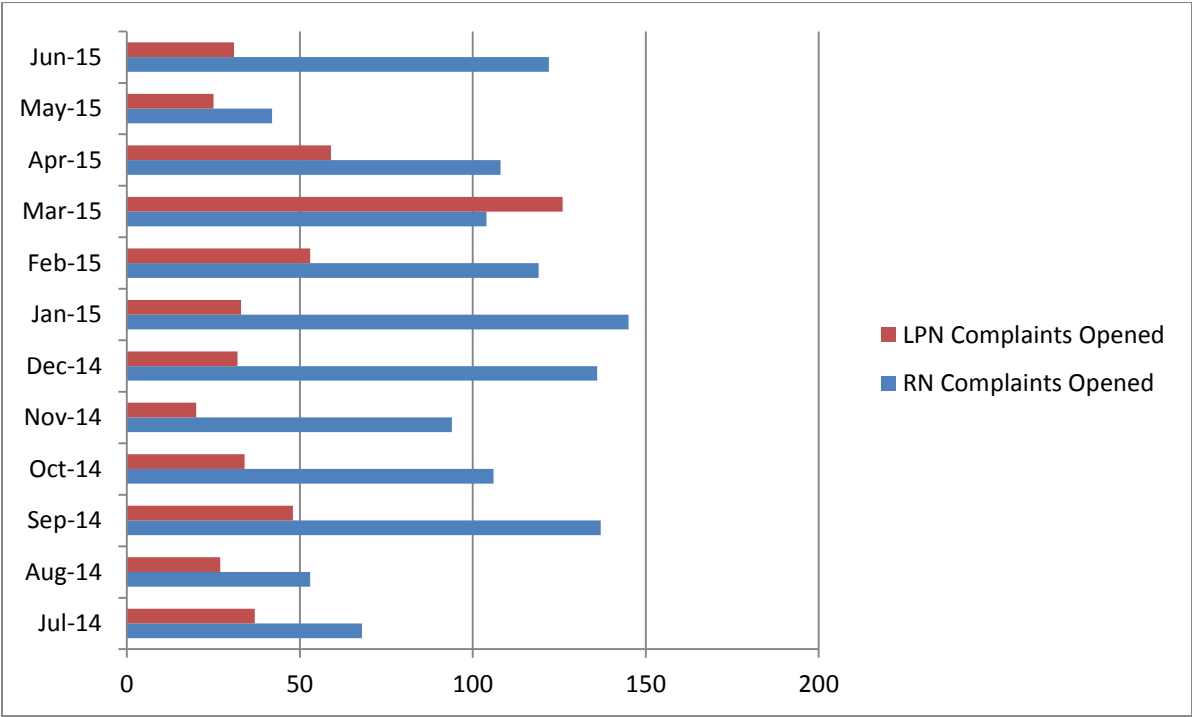
To fulfill its statutory mission to protect, promote, and preserve the public health, safety, and welfare, the Board is responsible for enforcing the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and Board rules used for the regulation of the nursing profession in Georgia. This is accomplished by reviewing, investigating and taking action on complaints submitted to the Board regarding the practice of licensed nurses in Georgia.

In FY2015, the Board opened 1,759 complaints (1,234 RN and 525 LPN). This represents a 78.4% increase in complaints opened since FY2014 (986). The number of complaints received has increased 166.1% since FY2011 (661).

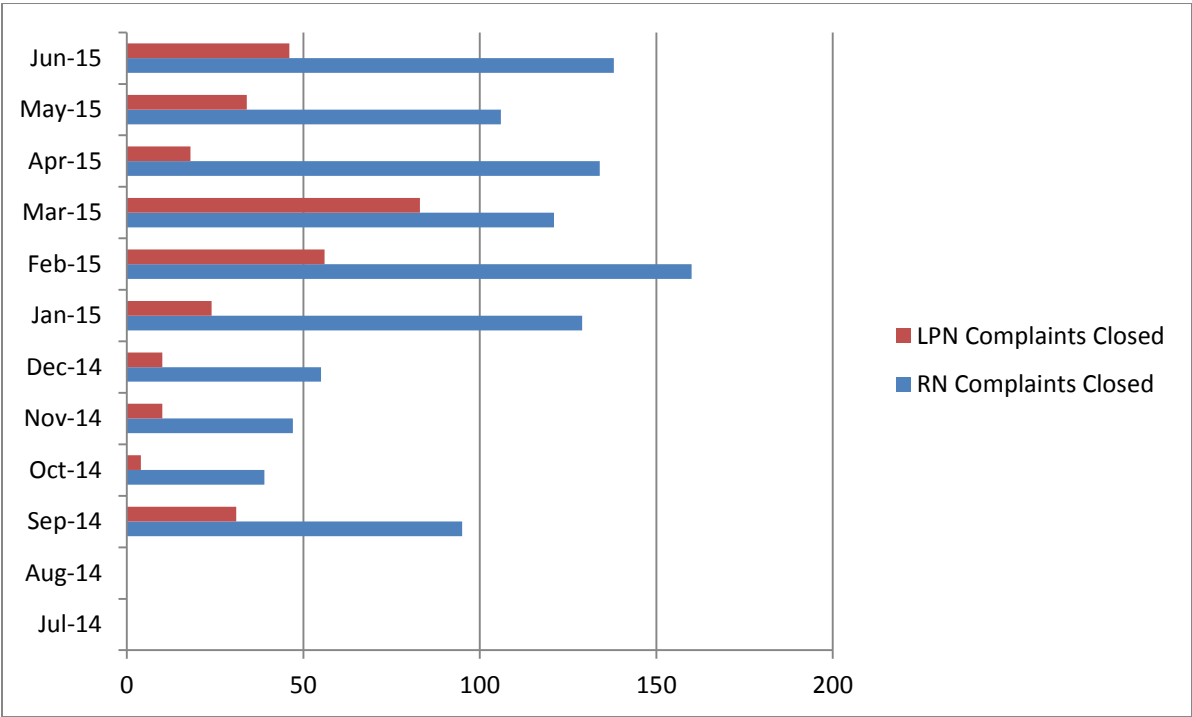
Complaints Opened by Fiscal Year



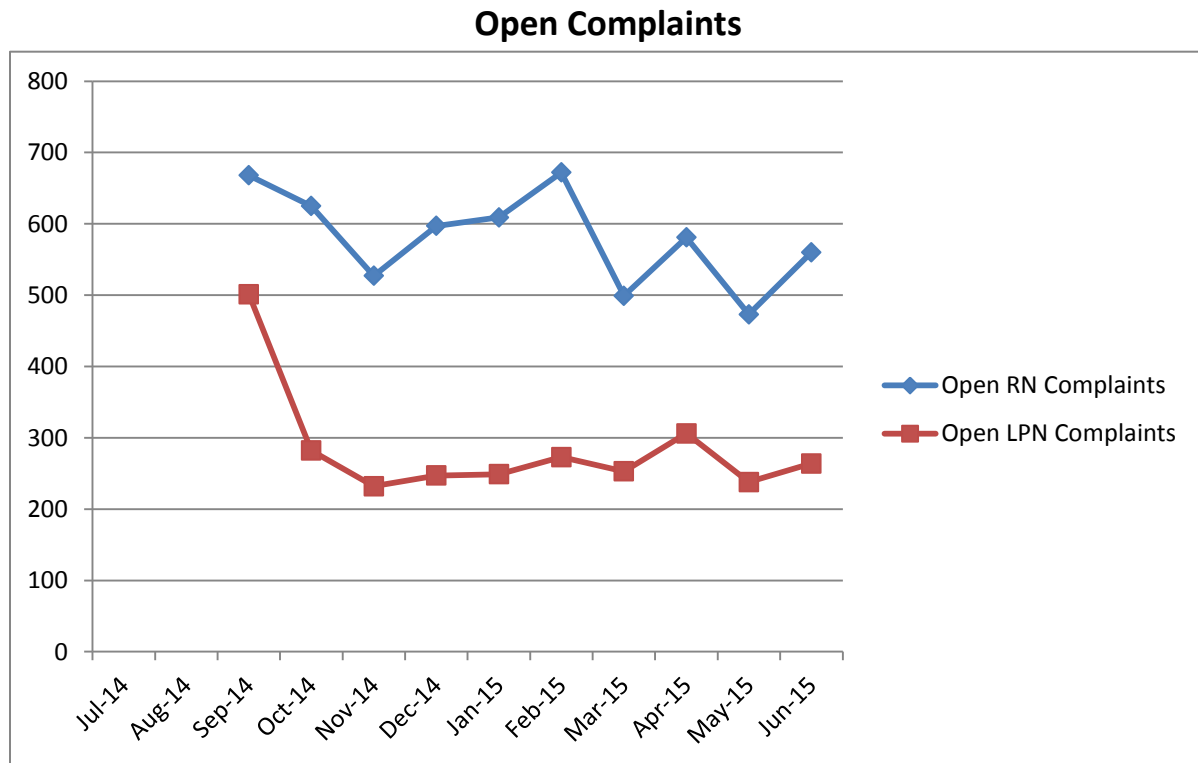
Complaints Opened



Complaints Closed

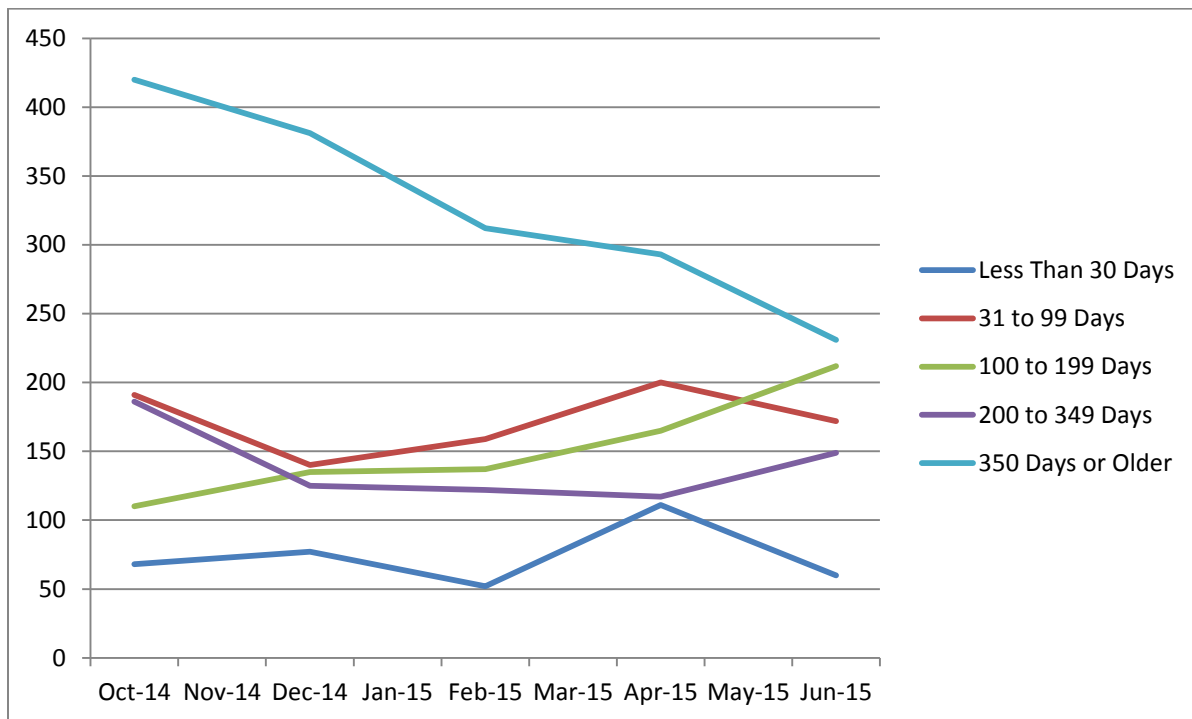


The Board began tracking the total number of open complaints by month in September 2014. As of June 30, 2015, the Board had 824 open complaints (560 RN and 264 LPN). This represents a 29.5% decrease in open cases since September 2014.



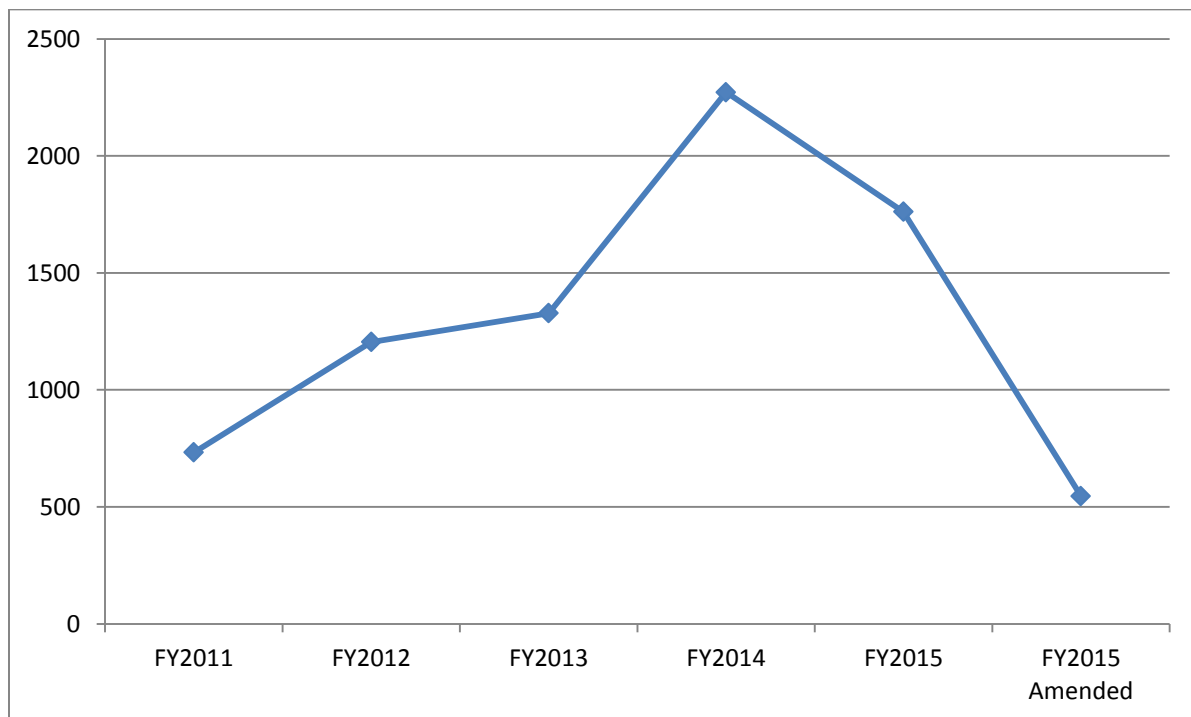
The Board began tracking complaint aging information in October 2014. Information is tabulated every two months in preparation for the Board meetings. Since October 2014, the Board has seen a 45% decrease in cases over 350 days. Additionally, since October 2014, the Board has seen a 19.9% decrease in cases 200 to 349 days. While the number of the oldest cases has decreased substantially, the number of cases 100 to 199 days has increased 92.7% since October 2014.

Complaint Aging Information



In FY2014, the Board began tracking the total number of days a complaint aged from receipt to resolution. In FY2011, complaints were closed after an average of 733 days. The average number of days a complaint aged increased by 64.4% (1,205) in FY2012. In FY2013, the average increased by only 10.2% (1,328). In FY2014, the average increased 71.1% (2,272). It should be noted that the number complaints received in FY2014 also increased by 94.1%. In FY2015, the average decreased by 22.5% (1,761); however, effective July 1, 2014, additional staff members were allocated to the Board and a complete complaint inventory and reconciliation was completed in September 2015. During the inventory and reconciliation, errors caused by data migration and other factors were corrected. Using the data from September 2014 through June 2015 (which excludes the inventory and reconciliation process), the average decreased by 76% (546).

Average Number of Days from Receipt To Resolution



Education

The Board is responsible for the regulation of licensed practical nursing education programs and registered nursing education programs. This is accomplished by reviewing proposals for new nursing education programs and ensuring that the institution has the components required in Board rules to open a successful nursing education program and by reviewing existing nursing education programs and ensuring compliance with all Board regulations.

Nursing Education Programs					
	Approval Status				
Programs	Developmental	Initial	Full	Conditional	Total
LPN	0	0	24	2	26
RN	2	11	37	2	52
Total	2	11	61	4	78